

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 CANBER 03434 01 OF 02 040820Z
ACTION HA-05

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 ISO-00 PM-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00
DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-01 NSCE-00 SSO-00
ICAE-00 INRE-00 JUSE-00 INSE-00 VO-05 /054 W
-----015880 040824Z /21

O R 040717Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
TO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK IMMEDIATE
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3176
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 CANBERRA 3434

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SREF, AS
SUBJECT: REFUGEES: MESSAGE FROM FONMIN PEACOCK TO VICE
PRESIDENT MONDALE

DFA HAS SENT THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE TO AUSTRALIAN EMBASSIES
IN WASHINGTON, JAKARTA AND BANGKOK. FONMIN PEACOCK WOULD
BE MOST GRATEFUL IF THE VICE PRESIDENT COULD BRING UP THE
REFUGEE PROBLEM WITH THE INDONESIANS.

BEGIN TEXT OF MESSAGE FROM THE FOREIGN MINISTER TO VICE
PRESIDENT MONDALE:

"I HAVE WELCOMED THE REPORTS OF SUCCESSFUL DISCUSSIONS
BETWEEN OUR OFFICIALS IN WASHINGTON LAST WEEK ON THE
QUESTIONS OF OPERATIONAL, INTERNATIONAL AND OTHER INITIATIVES
WHICH OUR TWO COUNTRIES MIGHT TAKE ON INDO-CHINESE REFUGEE
QUESTIONS. OFFICIALS PROVISIONALLY AGREED THAT AUSTRALIA
MIGHT TAKE THE INITIATIVE IN DISCUSSING THESE PROBLEMS
WITH MALAYSIA WHILE THE UNITED STATES MIGHT INITIATE
DISCUSSIONS WITH INDONESIA AS PART OF A COORDINATED EFFORT
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 CANBER 03434 01 OF 02 040820Z

WHICH WE COULD UNDERTAKE IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE UNHCR
AND THE REGIONAL COUNTRIES TO DEAL WITH THE REFUGEE PROBLEMS.

"I UNDERSTAND THAT YOU INTEND TO DISCUSS THE REFUGEE
QUESTION QUIRING YOUR VISIT TO AUSTRALIA. I HESITATE TO
RAISE ASPECTS OF THE PROBLEM IN ADVANCE OF YOUR VISIT BUT
I HAVE BEEN INFORMED THAT YOU WILL BE DISCUSSING THE INDO-

CHINESE REFUGEE SITUATION DURING YOUR CURRENT VISIT TO SOUTHEAST ASIA. THIS BEING THE CASE, WE WOULD LIKE TO ASK YOUR HELP ON AN ASPECT OF THE REFUGEE PROBLEM WHICH IS CURRENTLY AFFECTING AUSTRALIA MOST URGENTLY. OUR CONCERN ARISES FROM REPORTS, SOME UNCONFIRMED, THAT THERE ARE UP TO 25 BOATS OF REFUGEES IN OR NEAR INDONESIAN WATERS, ALL OF WHICH HAVE AUSTRALIA AS THEIR INTENDED DESTINATION. IF THEY ARE ABLE TO PROCEED, THERE WILL BE CAUSE FOR CONCERN THAT OUR MUTUAL INTEREST IN RESOLVING THE REFUGEE PROBLEM WILL BE HARMED.

"THERE IS A SERIOUS RISK THAT THE ARRIVAL OF BOATS IN NUMBERS COULD BECOME PUBLICLY UNMANAGEABLE AND THAT COMMUNITY OPINION WOULD TURN AGAINST THE POLICY OF ACCEPTING REFUGEES. WITH THE UNITED STATES, WE ARE ANXIOUS TO GIVE A LEAD TO INTERNATIONAL OPINION AIMED AT RESOLVING THE CENTRAL PROBLEM OF MOVING INDO-CHINESE REFUGEES OUT OF THE SOUTHEAST ASIAN REGION IN AN ORDERLY AND HUMANE WAY.

"AUSTRALIA HAS HAD DISCUSSIONS AT SENIOR LEVEL WITH THE INDONESIAN GOVERNMENT OVER A PERIOD OF MONTHS AND HAS ASKED THEM TO INTERCEPT INDO-CHINESE REFUGEE BOATS TRANSITTING INDONESIAN WATERS EN ROUTE TO AUSTRALIA TO ENABLE THE AUSTRALIAN AUTHORITIES TO PROCESS THOSE BOAT PEOPLE WHO WISH TO SETTLE IN AUSTRALIA. NATURALLY, WE

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 CANBER 03434 01 OF 02 040820Z

WISH TO INTERVIEW THESE PEOPLE TO ESTABLISH THAT THEY ARE GENUINE REFUGEES AND THAT THEY ARE MEDICALLY CLEAR. THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT HAS OFFERED THE INDONESIANS A GUARANTEE THAT IT IS WILLING TO ACCEPT ALL SUCH BOAT REFUGEES IN INDONESIAN WATERS WHO ARE SEEKING TO SETTLE IN AUSTRALIA EXCEPT THOSE WHO HAVE TAKEN PART IN THE SEIZURE OF A VESSEL.

"THE INDONESIANS HAVE NOT YET GIVEN US A SUBSTANTIVE REPLY AND HAVE IN FACT BEEN PROVIDING FOOD AND FUEL TO ENABLE THE BOATS TO CONTINUE THEIR JOURNEY TO AUSTRALIA WITHOUT DELAY. WE HAVE FOUND THAT A NUMBER OF THE BOAT REFUGEES WHO HAVE ARRIVED IN AUSTRALIA WISH TO GO TO THE UNITED STATES, FRANCE, OR OTHER COUNTRIES BUT HAD TAKEN THE RISK OF COMING TO AUSTRALIA ON BOATS BECAUSE OF THE DELAYS IN THE PROCESSING OF REFUGEES FROM THE CAMPS PRINCIPALLY IN MALAYSIA.

"IN ADDITION TO THE UNDERTAKING WHICH AUSTRALIA HAS GIVEN TO THE INDONESIANS, IT COULD BE MOST HELPFUL FOR AUSTRALIA'S REPRESENTATIONS IF YOU COULD REINFORCE OUR POSITION AND THE URGENCY WITH WHICH WE VIEW THE MATTER

AT THE HIGHEST LEVELS IN INDONESIA BY ASSURING THE
INDONESIANS THAT ANY REFUGEES THAT DO NOT GO TO AUSTRALIA
WILL BE ACCEPTED BY THE UNITED STATES. I KNOW THAT THERE
MAY BE A PROBLEM FOR YOU IN GIVING SUCH AN UNDERTAKING
BACAUSE YOUR ADMINISTRATION IS STILL WAITING FOR THE NECES-
SARY PAROLE AUTHORITY. HOWEVER, WE HAVE THOUGHT THAT, AS
THE NUMBERS, MEASURED AGAINST YOUR OVERALL EFFORT, WOULD
BE RELATIVELY SMALL, SUCH AN UNDERTAKING COULD WELL BE
FEASIBLE WITHIN THE EXISTING AUTHORITY.

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 CANBER 03434 02 OF 02 040814Z
ACTION HA-05

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 ISO-00 PM-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00
DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-01 NSCE-00 SSO-00
ICAE-00 INRE-00 JUSE-00 INSE-00 VO-05 /054 W
-----015838 040825Z /21

O R 040717Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
TO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK IMMEDIATE
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3177
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 CANBERRA 3434

" THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT WOULD ACCORDINGLY BE MOST
GRATEFUL IF YOU COULD IN THE SPIRIT IF THE DISCUSSIONS IN
WASHINGTON LAST WEEK, LEND YOUR PERSONAL SUPPORT TO OUR
EFFORTS TO OBTAIN FROM THE INDONESIANS THEIR AGREEMENT TO
PERMIT THE ORDERLY PROCESSING IN INDONESIAN CENTRES OF THOSE
REFUGEES WHO ENTER INDONESIAN PORTS ON THE UNDERSTANDING THAT
OUR TWO COUNTRIES WOULD GUARANTEE THE PROMPT ONWARD MOVEMENT
AND RESETTLEMENT OF ALL OF THEM. OUR MINDS WOULD BE GREATLY
EASED IF WE COULD FEEL THAT INDONESIA WAS PREPARED TO
COOPERATE WITH US AND STOP THE FLOW OF BOATS TO AUSTRALIA.
WE COULD THEN GET ON WITH THE TASKS OF FURTHER DEVELOPING
AN EFFECTIVE PROGRAM TO HANDLE THE BOAT CASE PEOPLE WITHOUT
HAZARD TO THEMSELVES OR TO POPULAR SUPPORT FOR OUR POLICIES.

I AM SURE YOU WILL UNDERSTAND THAT I WOULD NOT HAVE
MADE THIS APPEAL FOR YOUR HELP AT SUCH A SHORT NOTICE IF
WE WERE NOT FACED WITH THE SERIOUS AND URGENT PROBLEM OF
A LARGE NEW CONCENTRATION OF BOATS CAPABLE OF MAKING A

DRAMATIC AND DISTURBING NEW SERIES OF UNATHORIZED
ARRIVALS.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 CANBER 03434 02 OF 02 040814Z

"I WOULD ONLY ADD THAT WE WILL OF COURSE UNDERSTAND IF
YOU FEEL UNABLE TO RESPOND TO OUR REQUEST BY SPEAKING
YOURSELF TO THE INDONESIANS. WE WILL IN ANY EVENT LOOK
FORWARD TO IMPORTANT DISCUSSIONS OF THE REFUGEE
PROBLEM DURING YOUR VISIT TO AUSTRALIA NEXT WEEK.

"WITH WARM PERSONAL REGARDS. LOOKING FORWARD TO
SEEING YOU IN CANBERRA.

"ANDREW PEACOCK."
ALSTON

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: REFUGEES, DIPLOMATIC COMMUNICATIONS, NEGOTIATIONS, PROGRAMS (PROJECTS), VISITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 04 may 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978CANBER03434
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780190-0194
Format: TEL
From: CANBERRA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780594/aaaadcla.tel
Line Count: 190
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: f5ef98a4-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION HA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2796587
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: REFUGEES: MESSAGE FROM FONMIN PEACOCK TO VICE PRESIDENT MONDALE DFA HAS SENT THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE TO AUSTRALIAN E
TAGS: SREF, PDIP, AS, ID, (MONDALE, WALTER F), (PEACOCK, ANDREW S)
To: BANGKOK
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/f5ef98a4-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014